



## **Joint Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Committee on Rules of Origin and Customs-Related Matters under the Agreement between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership**

**Brussels and Tokyo (by videoconference), 2nd March 2021**

The second meeting of the Committee on Rules of Origin and Customs-Related Matters (“CROCRM”) under the Agreement between the European Union (“EU”) and Japan for an Economic Partnership (“EPA”) took place on 2nd March 2021 by videoconference.

The meeting was co-chaired by the Director of International and General Affairs, DG TAXUD, and the Director for European Union Economic Affairs Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. EU participants from the Directorate General for Taxation and Customs Union (DG TAXUD), the Directorate General for Trade (DG TRADE), the Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), the EU Delegation to Japan, and Polish Customs, and Japanese participants from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Ministry of Finance (MOF), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and the Mission of Japan to the EU had a fruitful exchange of views on matters related to Chapter 3 (Rules of Origin and Origin Procedures) and Chapter 4 (Customs Matters and Trade Facilitation) of the EPA.

The enclosed agenda was adopted.

The committee reconfirmed that both sides have fully implemented the actions identified at the first meeting of the CROCRM on 26 June 2019, which had been confirmed and welcomed at the second meeting of the Joint Committee under the EPA held on 1st February 2021. As regards the guidance document on origin criteria, the customs authorities of both sides confirmed their continuing cooperation toward completion of the guidance as well as exchange of each guidance before publication.

The EU presented the overview of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement especially in the areas of rules of origin and custom-related matters. Japan also

explained the Japan-UK Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement from the same aspects.

The EU suggested setting up a procedure for the consultation referred to in Article 3.24(3) of the EPA; whereas Japan indicated that the existing communication channels including the hotline between the custom authorities of both sides established at the first committee would be sufficient in case any issues arise. Both sides confirmed not to set up a procedure for the time being.

Both Japan and the EU underlined the importance of further deepening their cooperation to facilitate the utilisation of the EPA by economic operators and confirmed that they would hold the next meeting in Brussels as long as circumstances allow.